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articles on taxation by Professor Willard of Colorado though unable to make use of his note on the taxes upon movables of the reign of Edward III. which appeared recently in the *English Historical Review*.

The next contribution is an essay on "The Societies of the Bardi and the Peruzzi and their dealings with Edward III., 1327-1345", by Mr. Ephraim Russell. It throws valuable light on the foreign financial relations of all three Edwards, who borrowed nearly half a million pounds from the Italian bankers between 1290 and 1345. Only a small part of these loans was ever repaid by Edward III. and the Bardi and Peruzzi failed disastrously in 1345, as the Riccardi and Frescobaldi had failed under his predecessors. The appendix to this essay gives lists of the Bardi and Peruzzi societies in England.

In "The Taxation of Wool, 1327-1348", Mr. F. R. Barnes makes an important special contribution to English economic history. He writes a clear and forcible essay with more breadth of view and more generalizations than some of the other contributors to the volume. The importance of control by the Commons of indirect as well as of direct forms of taxation and the check administered to the royal power are well brought out and emphasized, while much light is thrown on the financial history of the first twenty years of Edward III.'s reign. Somewhat closely connected with this essay is Professor Unwin's own scholarly contribution on "The Estate of Merchants, 1336-1365", which fills the next seventy-five pages. It is organized by periods and presents a most valuable survey of the character and activities of the merchant estate under Edward III. Space forbids any detailed analysis of this essay which is a distinct contribution to the social and economic history of the fourteenth century and a credit to Professor Unwin.

The last two essays in the volume are special studies of English economic and foreign policy. The first, by Mr. Frank Sargeant, deals with the "Wine Trade with Gascony" in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the second, by Miss Dorothy Greaves, with "Calais under Edward III." Both of these essays add something to our knowledge of medieval England and show the importance of her Continental affiliations and policies. A list of Calais officials is appended to Miss Greaves's essay.

There is a good general index covering all the essays, and the typography and general make-up of the volume are worthy of the Manchester University Press, while the proof-reading appears to have been carefully done.

N. M. TRENHOLME.

*The Rise of the Spanish Empire in the Old World and in the New.*

By ROGER BIGELOW MERRIMAN. In two volumes. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1918. Pp. xxviii, 529; xv, 387. \$7.50.)

AN AMERICAN book in the field cultivated by Prescott, Ticknor, and Lea is likely to be measured by the high standard which those writers

set, and allowance will not always be made for the difficulty of the subject. The rise of the Spanish Empire is a difficult subject; it calls for a clear narrative of a vast mass of complicated facts extending over a long period, and analysis and description of a body of diverse institutions, and a statement of the social and economic basis on which the empire was built. There is no doubt, as Professor Merriman says, that one must seek the origins of the Spanish Empire in the early history of the Peninsula, but, when he contrasts it with the rise of the British Empire, one may well question his affirmation that "it is possible to make an intelligent study of the British Empire without going back of the sixteenth century" (I. 3); for the spirit that determined the character of the British Empire, the spirit of liberty, had its origin surely prior to the sixteenth century, and no study of the British Empire can be intelligent that does not consider the origin and development of this spirit, the very soul of the empire.

The story to be told in the first volume of this work is the story of the various streams of provincial and national life that were brought together, and in their union formed the beginning of the Spanish Empire; it recounts the Christian advance at the expense of the Moors, the rise of Castile, the beginning of the conquest of the Canary Islands, the institutions of medieval Castile, the development of Aragon and Catalonia, their conquests in the Mediterranean, and the institutions of these eastern kingdoms. It was reasonable to expect, since the Spanish Empire "has its origins in the earliest periods of antiquity" (I. 3), that somewhere in the early chapters there would be offered an exposition of what Moorish civilization achieved and left as the basis of the Christian society that followed. One is disappointed in not finding this expectation met; for dynastic changes and lines of Saracenic rulers, however fully set forth, do not adequately reveal this basis. In some instances many of the uncharacterized names given might have been advantageously suppressed in favor of more enlightening general statements. In this part, where there was need of a lucid narrative to present the successive events in the life of a province or of a kingdom, the work has the correct uniformity of a well-composed chronicle; many sections have evidently been written with the open *Crónica* by the side of the author's manuscript, and features of the chronicle's style have unconsciously been transferred to the written page. Thus the narrative that should display the historical events in the relation of their real significance is less successful than the author's analysis of institutions; in fact, the parts of the first volume that deal with the early institutions of the Christians in the Peninsula are excellent. Chapters IV., V., and XI. constitute a noteworthy contribution to the literature in English on early Spain. Yet as the work now stands we have a first volume of 529 pages that may be considered as an introduction to the 350 pages of text, in the second volume.

From the dull chronicle that constitutes a considerable part of the first volume, one turns with satisfaction to the vigorous pages of the

second volume. Here the writer frees himself from his struggle with medieval centuries, and shakes off what apparently to him is the incubus of chronology. In these 350 pages he presents a profoundly interesting disquisition on the reign of the Catholic kings, treating it as a cross-section of the history of Spain. In a book covering a period of a thousand years, the writer is bound to be especially interested in some part of his extensive subject, and especially fitted by nature or his attainments to treat that part successfully, or more successfully than the rest of it. But the other parts have to be written, because the plan of the book demands it. In opening the second volume of this work, the reader feels at once that he has before him the subject on account of which the book was written. Some of the subdivisions of this subject are the union of Aragon and Castile, the overthrow of the rebels of Catalonia, the conquest of Granada, absolutism and the struggle for unity of faith and race, the internal reorganization in all its phases, the final conquest and organization of the Canaries, the discovery of America and the preliminary steps in the organization of the colonial system, the proposed expansion through marriage alliances, Ferdinand's struggle against fate, and the enlarging shadow of the Hapsburg peril. The treatment which these topics in their historical setting receive is strong, scholarly, and enlightening; through it all one sees the growing figure of Ferdinand, and one is led almost unconsciously to accept the author's conclusion that it is an heroic figure. This presentation is a timely and well-administered antidote to the sentimental exaltation of the Isabella of tradition.

The style, particularly of the first volume, sometimes becomes difficult by reason of the author's reluctance to repeat his substantive, and the consequent lack of immediate clearness through the injudicious use of pronouns and the frequent employment of "the former" and "the latter", when some other form of expression might have been used with greater advantage. It is, moreover, to be regretted that the occasion of writing this book was not seized to inaugurate a reasonable practice in the writing of Spanish names in English texts. This is not the case of a single sinner; but some of the sinners by their prestige have caused their shortcomings to be tolerated and even to be consciously imitated. After Prescott one may perhaps hesitate to write Fernando, still if "Ferdinand" and "Henry" and "John" are found acceptable by our author, it is not quite clear why he should discriminate against Peter, and let him stand as "Pedro". An attempt to translate Spanish names into their alleged English equivalents inevitably produces an ugly confusion in the text, since many names will be found that do not admit of such translation. And this confusion necessarily appears exaggerated when a book is written, as this one is, very largely from the viewpoint of persons. A determination to write the names of Spanish persons as the Spaniards wrote them would lead to a decided improvement in our pages.

BERNARD MOSES.